



Conservation Conversations

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

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Governor

ENVIRONMENTAL AND PUBLIC PROTECTION CABINET

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Teresa Hill
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Greetings to all:

I would like to welcome you to the new Division of Conservation newsletter, *Conservation Conversations*. I am sure the title alone will conjure up images of the earlier days in conservation for those of you who have been around for awhile. The first "News Bulletin" from the newly established Kentucky Department of Conservation began in January 1947 and the lead article in that first newsletter was the formation of a new national organization called The National Association of Soil Conservation District Governing Officials and was the beginning steps of what is now known as NACD. This first agency newsletter ran until 1974, then stopped and began again for a period from 1980 until 1990. The newsletter was discontinued since that time due to budgetary constraints. The title "Conservation Conversations" came from a radio program that was aired across Kentucky and featured the voice of our own Ray Adams promoting conservation of our natural resources across the Commonwealth on a weekly basis.

It has long been a goal of mine to strengthen our efforts to communicate with our conservation partners and the public through a newsletter that we can distribute electronically and post on our Division's Website. Unfortunately, we have not done enough to inform the public and each other about all the great things that are taking place with the conservation of our natural resources. We have decided to use this newsletter to promote conservation programs, conservation districts, DOC and district employees, and conservation people in general. We also plan to target conservation and other natural resources issues that are significant to Kentucky and to the nation. We consider this newsletter to be a work in progress and a tool that can be used by all to get information and to promote the conservation of our natural resources in Kentucky. We hope this newsletter informs, inspires and provides for a timely sharing of ideas. We hope that all of you will use this newsletter as a voice and as a tool to get the conservation message out to the public. We welcome your input and will gladly include any worthwhile material in future issues of this newsletter.

For now, this newsletter will be published quarterly so you will have plenty of time to submit your material to the Division of Conservation in a timely fashion. I look forward to many informative exchanges of information in the future. Feel free to contact us at 502-573-3080 if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

KentuckyUnbridledSpirit.com



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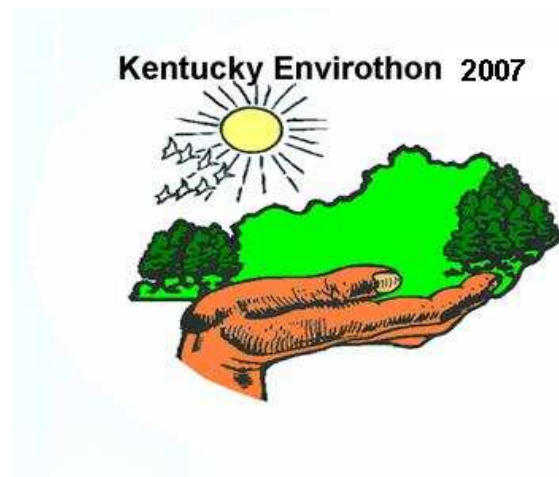
News From DOC

State Cost Share Program

Performance and maintenance agreements for all KWP4 state cost share practices were due **September 29, 2006**. If you have not turned in your agreements to DOC, please do so immediately.

2007 Kentucky Envirothon

Envirothon is a competitive, problem-solving, natural resources experience for students in grades 9 through 12. The event is competitive, but education is the bottom line. With the support of natural resource professionals, students are trained in the ways that real life environmental problems are solved. Teams of five students work to solve environmental problems. These teams are tested on their knowledge of Kentucky's natural resources at five "in the field" test stations. Each station covers a separate topic addressing soils, forestry, wildlife, aquatics, and a current environmental issue. Through hands-on experiments, analysis and use of critical thinking skills, the teams answer a set of questions at each station.



A nonrefundable registration fee of \$50 is required per team entry by Feb. 28, 2007. The nonrefundable registration fee will be raised to \$75 per team entry with registration March 1 thru March 16, 2007. March 16, 2007 is the last day registration fees will be accepted. Registration is required for regional competitions only.

West Regional: April 14, 2007-The Trigg County Recreational Complex.

East Regional: April 21, 2007-Eastern Kentucky University Meadowbrook Farm.

State Competition: May 15-16, 2007-The Kentucky Leadership Center, Jabez.

Advisers/ teachers/coaches need to bring copies of all permission slips signed by parents or guardians, medical information forms and photo releases for all students. Team rosters (5 members plus 2 alternates) will be turned in at the Regional Competition. Teams will be allowed to compete with 3 to 5 members at regional competition and still qualify for the State Competition but must have 5 students to compete at the State competition.

For more information, rules and regulations, registration forms, and teacher/coach resources for the current issue topic, please visit <http://www.conservation.ky.gov/educations/>.

Conservation District Supervisor Leadership Development Training 2006

Submitted by Curtis M. Kirk



Participants enjoyed an informative leadership development workshop at Kentucky Dam Village last spring following the Area 1 meeting

We are pleased to announce that the conservation district supervisor leadership development training is back on track. Two workshops were completed in the spring of 2006 and another two are scheduled for this fall. The first meeting of the fall will be November 1, 2006 at the Clark County Extension Education Center in Winchester and the second meeting will be held November 8, 2006 at the Grayson county extension office in Leitchfield. These will be one-day workshops and will not require over night travel. Meeting dates and workshop goals were determined using input from supervisors who completed the 2005-2006 conservation district supervisors' leadership development training survey. Goals identified for the training include: increasing knowledge and understanding of conservation district supervisors' roles and responsibilities; developing a better understanding of conservation programs and their implementation; and expanding supervisors' leadership skills.

We tried something new this year with limited success. The first two conservation district supervisor leadership development training workshops were scheduled to immediately follow two of the area meetings. The first workshop followed the area one meeting at Kentucky Dam Village State Resort Park in the west and the second workshop followed the area eight meeting at Carter Caves in the east with both lasting two days. Supervisors from any district in the state were welcome to attend either of these meetings.

Funding was provided for all supervisors attending the conservation district supervisor leadership development training workshops from funds set aside by the Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts. All expenses were paid including meals, and mileage for up to four supervisors from each district. This funding will also be available for those supervisors attending either of the two upcoming conservation district supervisor leadership development training workshops in November. It is our hope that all supervisors will take advantage of this opportunity to utilize these funds and attend the conservation district supervisor leadership development training workshop at the nearest location.

These workshops meet the criteria as one of the two or more training opportunities for qualifying for the conservation district supervisor leadership development training incentive pay. This incentive pay came about as a result of the spring conservation district supervisors' leadership development training workshop at Carter Caves. We will be providing more detailed information about the upcoming meetings in the near future. If you have any questions or if you need additional information, please contact the Division of Conservation field representative in your area.

The Jim Claypool Conservation Art and Writing Contests



Kentucky Soil ...It's Worth Protecting

This is the theme for the 2006 Jim Claypool Conservation Art and Writing Contests. The contests are named for the late director of the division of conservation and sponsored by The Courier-Journal, Kentucky Farm Bureau, Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts and the Division of Conservation in cooperation with other state and federal agencies.

The conservation writing contest is for students in grades 6 through 12. The conservation art contest is for students in grade 1 through 5. Contests run **Oct. 1 through Nov. 30, 2006**. Schools select winning entries by late November then send them to their respective conservation districts. County winners are selected during December and mailed to The Courier-Journal by **Dec. 31**.

For more information contact the Division of Conservation at 502-573-3080, or for an electronic version of the tabloid ***Kentucky Soil ...It's Worth Protecting***, visit this Web site:

<http://www.courier-journal.com/nie/conservation/2006/index.html>

News From the Districts

Fourth-Grade Students Learn Valuable Farm and Home Lessons at 17th Annual Webster County Youth Agriculture Days

Submitted by Connie Gray

Fourth-graders from all five Webster County elementary schools attended the Youth Ag Days hosted at the farm of Larry Raney in the Onton community of Webster County.

Students were given hands-on learning demonstrations in the areas of ATV/PTO safety, corn byproducts, food safety, weather safety, methamphetamine awareness, animal safety and pet care, harvesting crops and BMP implementation to better protect the environment.

Sponsors of the 17th Annual Youth Ag and Safety Days included: Webster County Conservation District, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Webster County Cooperative Extension Service, Webster County FFA, Webster County Board of Education, Providence Board of Education, Tyson Foods, Inc., RC Bottling Co., Kenergy, Crop Production Service, Southern States Cooperative, Ken Brown of Kentucky Farm Bureau, Flying 2 Hobbies, Webster County 4-H, Webster County Farm Bureau, Webster County Homemakers, Webster County Sheriff's Office, Farm Credit Services, McGill Farms, Brown and Hammack Insurance, Brian Hornback Farms, Eastern Livestock, Kerry Winstead Farms, Sebree Deposit Bank, United Community Bank, Dixon Bank, Integra Bank, Independence Bank, Huts Cattle Company, Eddie and Regina Melton, Mitchell Brothers Seed Co., Leggett Farms, Max Collins, Clint Clark, Jimmy Mounts and Hugh Boles Farms. Without these sponsors and many volunteers the event would not have been possible.



John Mocko teaching about the importance of protecting our natural resources.



Host Farmer Larry Raney explains the role of the combine to students.

Todd County Conservation District Receives Collaboration Conservation Award

Submitted by Connie Gray

The Todd County Conservation District was selected as the 2006 Southeast regional winner of the Collaboration Conservation Award during the Southeast regional meeting of the National Association of Conservation Districts in Asheville, N.C. The award was presented in recognition of the district's collaborative efforts with Todd County Fiscal Court, Todd County Board of Education, local civic clubs, business firms, local radio and newspaper outlets, federal and state agencies and residents of Todd County to promote and encourage the voluntary wise use, management and general conservation of the natural resources of Todd County.



Representatives of Todd County with Award

New Employee in Fayette County

Submitted by Kim Richardson

Fayette County has a new face in the crowd. Carly Burton has been hired as environmental education coordinator for the Fayette County Conservation District. Ms. Burton is a graduate of the University of Kentucky with a degree in agriculture education. She is working part-time with the district and spends the rest of her time as a substitute teacher in Scott County schools. She grew up in Stamping Ground on a cattle and tobacco farm. She is looking forward to helping educate Fayette County citizens, young and old, in environmental concerns. Esther Moberly, who was Fayette County's former environmental education coordinator, resigned to take a job with Bluegrass PRIDE.

Woodford County Awards Educational Grant

Submitted by Kim Richardson

The Woodford County Conservation District recently awarded an educational grant to retired teacher and district supervisor Peggy Seal. Ms. Seal used the grant to teach a class at the Woodford County senior citizen center to make small garden bowls. Community Trust Bank in Versailles donated gardening gloves to each of the participants. Ms. Seal believed senior citizens were being overlooked as educational opportunities were afforded to schools. She plans to apply for more grants to help the older citizens of her community.

‘The Environment Smiles’ at Calloway County Middle School’s Outdoor Classroom

Submitted by Debbie Hinton

The outdoor classroom began as an idea from the Calloway County Middle School Student Council in the fall of 2004. Discussion was held on how this project could become a reality. The Calloway County Conservation District was one of the groups contacted in making this dream come true. The Student Council held fundraisers. Grants and donations from local businesses and other sources also helped fund the project.

The outdoor classroom has stations at which students can use all areas of their curriculum: butterfly gardens, hummingbird garden and feeders, erosion control bed, memorial garden, weather station, water pond station, and nature trail.

The Calloway County Conservation District and personnel from the Murray State University horticulture program mapped the mile-long trail around the campus and labeled the hardscape of the outdoor classroom. The trail will be one of the final features. Work began during the summer. The trail will include different stations around the campus, such as a tree finder and plant identification, and can be used for sports such as track and cross country. A testing plot for high school students to record observations and calculations on different grasses and crops is also planned along the trail. The Calloway County Conservation District is assisting the high school with designing and coming up with the different grasses and crops for the stations.

The outdoor classroom served as a workshop held by Murray State University with the assistance of the Calloway County Conservation District. The workshop was open to all teachers in the Purchase as well as a few from the Pennyrite. Teachers had an opportunity for hands-on experience in setting up and maintaining an outdoor classroom. The workshop also addressed how to obtain funding and work with various community business and associations to make the outdoor classroom a success.



Rockcastle County Conservation District Organizes White Goods Drive

Submitted by David Keltner

We have all seen them, especially during the winter months when there is no foliage to hide them — bright white appliances scattered along hillsides or in creeks, begging for a snow to hide them in the otherwise beautiful landscape.

All across Kentucky, conservation districts have decided to tackle this problem. The Rockcastle County Conservation District partnered with Rockcastle County Fiscal Court and Mount Vernon Scrap for the purpose of ridding this blight from the landscape. For three consecutive years the district applied for and received a grant from the Kentucky Soil and Water Conservation Commission in the amount of \$7,500 per year. The Fiscal Court donated \$2,500 per year and the salvage company agreed to pay \$20 per ton for scrap metal. To create interest for the first year, the district sponsored a contest, awarding cash prizes to organizations that collected the most appliances. Skaggs Creek Baptist Church won \$500 for finishing first. Second place was First Baptist Church youth group, which received \$250. Third place went to Rockcastle County Kiwanis Club, which received \$150.

As word spread about the "White Goods Drive," neighboring counties benefited as well. People were paid \$5 by the district for each appliance delivered to the salvage yard and \$20 per ton by the salvage yard. Appliances are crushed at the scrap yard and recycled. A total of 5,438 appliances were delivered to the scrap yard over a three-year period.

Bus Carloftis, county judge for Rockcastle County, was pleased with the drive. "Five dollars is a small price to pay for an appliance to be removed from an illegal dump," he said. Mount Vernon Scrap owner and operator Gary Miracle stated, "We are overwhelmed and they are working us to death." Tommy Mink, district chairperson, said district administrative secretary Sandy Whitaker did an excellent job organizing and implementing the project. "We are proud to be a part of this community effort that eliminates these eyesores from the landscape," he said. If you live in Rockcastle County, or come visiting, take time to enjoy the beautiful landscape without the appliances that looked so out of place.

Baled appliances collected in Franklin County are loaded for shipment to recycling center.



Dates to Remember

2006 Conservation District Calendar

October

10/01/06-NACD conservation service awards nominations to national office.

10/10/06-Equipment loan payments due to Frankfort office.

Other:

- Area conservation district employees training meeting — DOC field representatives.
- State cost share status reports to Frankfort office.
- Monthly treasurer's report and district employee time sheets to Frankfort office.

November

11/01/06Supervisors' leadership training, Clark County extension office.****

11/06/06Conservation district conference call, 7 p.m. EST.****

11/08/06Supervisors' leadership training, Grayson County extension office.****

11/10/06-Equipment loan payments due to Frankfort office.

11/13/06Conservation district conference call, 7 p.m. EST.****

11/14/06-KACD board of directors' meeting in Frankfort, 10 a.m. EST.

11/20/06-Commission meeting in Frankfort, 9 a.m. EST.

Other:

- National conservation poster contest entries due to Frankfort office.
- Conservation district supervisors' leadership development workshops.
- State cost share status reports to Frankfort office.
- Monthly treasurer's report and district employee time sheets to Frankfort office.

December

12/01/06-National conservation poster contest entries due to national office.

12/10/06-Equipment loan payments due to Frankfort office.

Other:

- Writing and art contest — top school entries judged at district level and due to The Courier-Journal.
- Conservation district supervisors' leadership development workshops.
- State cost share status reports to Frankfort office.
- Monthly treasurer's report and district employee time sheets to Frankfort office.



The Kentucky Division of Conservation exists to assist Kentucky's 121 local conservation districts in the development and implementation of sound soil and water conservation programs in order to manage, enhance and promote the wise use of the Commonwealth's natural resources. By responsibly administering the conservation programs of the Division of Conservation, through the conservation districts, the availability of technical and financial assistance to the landowners and land users of Kentucky is ensured.

We're on the WEB!
CONSERVATION.KY.GOV

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